

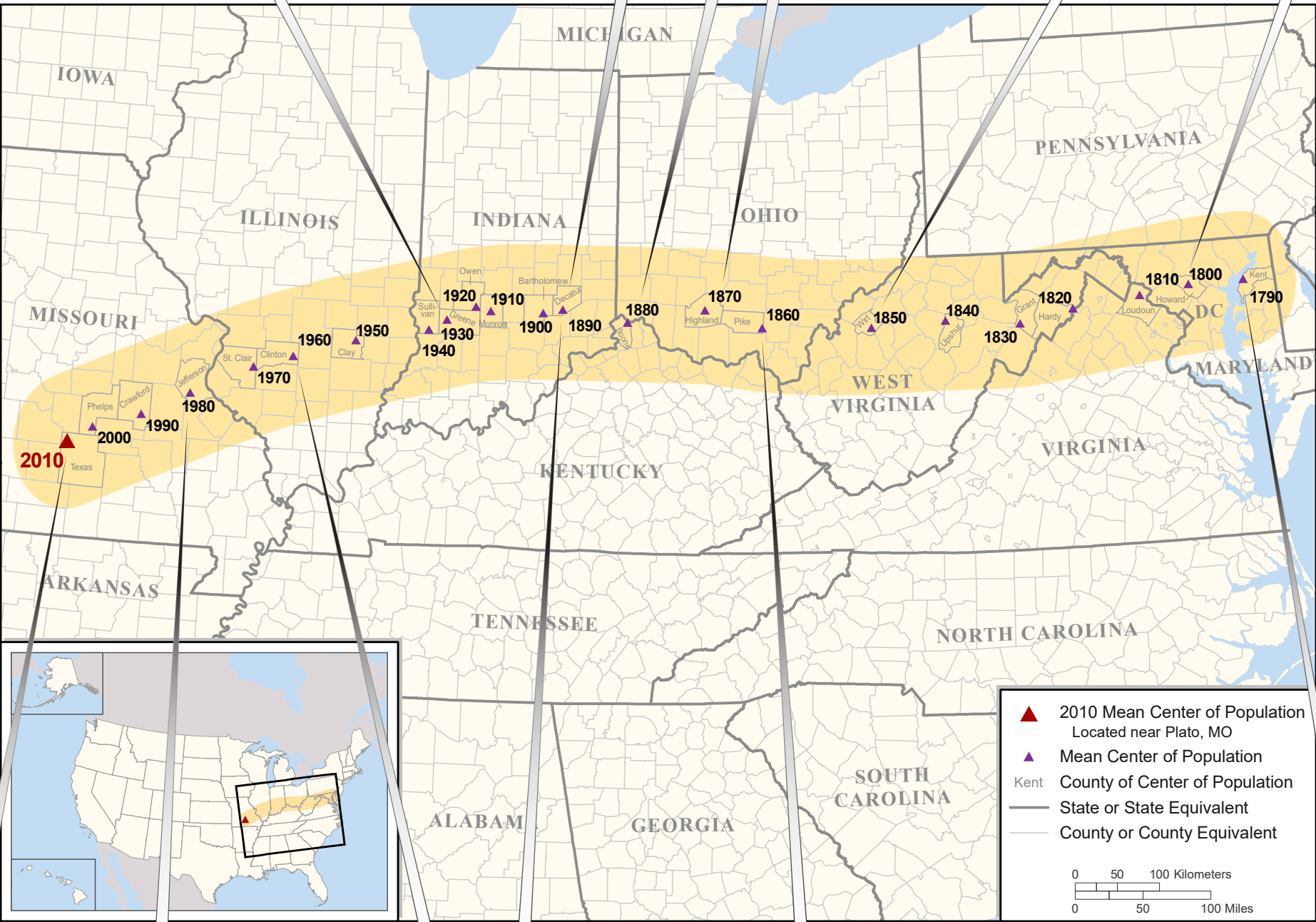
# Key Historical Events in Our Nation and Their Impacts to the Center of Population

**1930**  
Center of population starts southwestward tilt due to immigration and internal movement of Americans to the Sun Belt.

**1890**  
Oklahoma Land Rush opens unassigned land in Indian Territory to settlers.  
  
In 1890, the U.S. Census Bureau declares the “end of the frontier”.

**1870-1880**  
The Civil War (1861-1865) kills 750,000 people, but the westward movement continues.  
  
The Transcontinental Railroad connects East to West in 1869.

**1800-1850**  
The Cumberland Gap in the Appalachian Mountains is opened to wagons in 1775.



**1980-2010**  
Population explodes in the South and Southwest. From 1980-2010, Sun Belt population jumps from 28% to 40% of the U.S. population.  
  
Center of population stays in Missouri for the fourth decade in a row.

**1890-1960**  
Center of population moves its smallest distance – just 13 miles – from 1910-1920.  
  
**1892-1954**  
Ellis Island alone processed more than 12 million immigrants from Europe.

**1860**  
From 1846-1869, nearly 400,000 people move west on the Oregon Trail.  
  
Gold Rush (1848-1855) lures 300,000 people to California.  
  
Center of population makes its largest jump: 103 miles from 1850-1860.

**1790**  
About 3.9 million people lived in the 13 original colonies along the Atlantic Coast.